Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, ELAB, MX, US

SUBJECT: LAND INVASION NEAR NOGALES, SONORA, RESOLVED TO AVOID INTERNATIONAL INCIDENT

1. LOCAL PRESS APRIL 29 REPORTED THAT INVADERS OF THE MASCARENAS FAMILY PROPERTY BY NAME OF SANTA BARBARA, NEAR NOGALES. SONORA, WERE DISLODGED "TO AVOID AN INTERNATIONAL INCIDENT WITH THE U.S."A STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SONORA STATE GOVERNMENT NOTED THAT THE INVADERS HAD TAKEN POSSESSION OF FIELDS ON WHICH THE HYDRAULIC FACILITIES ARE LOCATED WHICH SUPPLY WATER TO THE CITY OF NOGALES, SONORA, AS WELL AS TO THAT OF NOGALES, AZ. IT ADDED THAT "THE U.S. AUTHORITIES HAD ALREADY OFFICIALLY PROTESTED THIS SITUATION." THE REPORT QUOTES THE SPOKESMAN AS STATING THAT ON THE OCCASION OF TWO EARLIER INVASIONS OF THESE MASCARENAS FAMILY LANDS THE GOVERNOR OF SONORA, ALEJANDRO CARRILLO MARCOR, HAD USED PERSUASION, A POLICY HE HAS FOLLOWED IN SIMILAR CASES ELSEWHERE IN SONORA SINCE HE ASSUMED OFFICE IN OCTOBER 1975. HOWEVER, THE INVADERS RETURNED A THIRD TIME UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF AN AGITATOR WHO DECLARED THAT THE INVADERS WOULD NOT RESPOND UNCLASSIFIED

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TO PERSUASION OR TO VIOLENCE. ACCORDINGLY, THE REPORT CONTINUES, THE JUDICIAL POLICE, BACKED BY A CORDON OF TROOPS, WAS SENT IN TO EFFECT THE FINAL REMOVAL OF THE INVADERS. FORTUNATELY THERE WAS NO VIOLENCE. THE NEED FOR MORE EXTREME MEASURES BY THE AUTHORITIES WAS REPORTEDLY OCCASIONED BY THE INVADERS' ILLEGAL APPROPRIATION OF WATERS OF THE SANTA CRUZ RIVER FOR THE IRRIGATION OF CROPS

THAT THEY HAD PLANTED ON THE SEIZED MASCARENAS FAMILY LANDS. THE DECISION TO USE FORCE TO DISLODGE THEM, THE STORY CONTINUES, WAS RENDERED NECESSARY BY THE PROVISIONS OF AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT THAT THE WATERS OF THE SANTA CRUZ RIVER COULD ONLY BE USED TO SUPPLY THE NEEDS OF THE TWO CITIES OF NOGALES ON THE BORDER. THE SPOKESMAN CONCLUDED THAT THE MEASURES TAKEN BY THE STATE AUTHORITIES WERE NOT TO PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF THE MASCARENAS FAMILY, BUT TO INSURE THE WATER SUPPLY OF THE CITIES OF NOGALES AND TO AVOID A MORE SERIOUS CONFLICT WITH THE U.S.

2. DURING A MEETING WITH GOVERNOR CARRILLO MARCOR MAY 2, THE PRINCIPAL OFFICER REFERRED TO THIS REPORT, WHICH WAS CONFIRMED IN ITS ESSENTIALS BY THE GOVERNOR. WHEN THE GOVERNOR WAS INFORMED THAT THE PRESS REPORT IMPLIED THAT NOGALES, AZ., WAS SUPPLIED BY "HYDRAULIC FACILITIES" LOCATED ON THE SANTA CRUZ RIVER AQUIFER IN MEXICO, THE GOVERNOR REPLIED THAT THIS WAS ERRONEOUS, SAYING THAT HE HAD ONLY INFORMED THE INVADERS THAT THEY WERE ILLEGALLY DRAWING ON WATER RESOURCES OF A RIVER THAT SUPPLIED THE CITIES OF NOGALES IN BOTH COUNTRIES. THE GOVERNOR OBSERVED THAT THE LEADERS OF THE THIRD AND FINAL INVASION APPEARED TO HAVE RESPONDED TO THE ARGUMENT THAT THEIR ACTIONS COULD CAUSE AN INTERNATIONAL INCIDENT.

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